



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
HEATHER TASKER, BRIDGET KELLY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

FBI
JAMES M. MARGOLIN,
MATTHEW BERTRON
(212) 384-2720, 2715

**BROOKLYN MEDICAL CLINIC OWNER SENTENCED TO 57 MONTHS
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR REPEAT HEALTH CARE FRAUD**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced that VICTOR TSEKHANOVICH, a/k/a "Alex," was sentenced today by United States District Judge CAROL BAGLEY AMON to 57 months' imprisonment for participating in a health care insurance fraud scheme by filing numerous fraudulent claims with insurance companies for unnecessary and exaggerated medical treatment. The defendant was convicted on all three counts contained in the Indictment following a two-week jury trial before Judge AMON.

The evidence at trial established that from around Fall 2003 through in or about May 2004, TSEKHANOVICH organized and led a health care fraud conspiracy through his medical clinic, ROV

Management, on 85th Street in Brooklyn, New York. As part of this scheme to defraud insurance companies, TSEKHANOVICH submitted, and caused to be submitted, through ROV Management numerous fraudulent insurance claims for fictitious or exaggerated property damage and medical expense claims by individuals who alleged they had been in automobile accidents.

The trial evidence established that after TSEKHANOVICH finished the home detention portion of his sentence for a 2003 health care fraud conspiracy conviction, he approached two individuals with whom he had previously engaged in insurance fraud, but who in the interim had become cooperating witnesses, about getting back into business. According to trial evidence, that business focused on fraudulent medical billings for individuals who came to TSEKHANOVICH's medical clinic through an organizer of staged accidents, among other ways. The trial evidence further demonstrated that these individuals were paid by TSEKHANOVICH to come to his clinic for "treatments" and that TSEKHANOVICH also referred these individuals to a complicit garage for inflated property damage estimates, which supported the fraudulent medical billing. Evidence at trial showed that, when at the garage, these co-conspirators confided in the garage owners their role in the insurance fraud scheme and readily agreed to bribe the insurance adjusters or to have damage added to their cars.

The trial evidence further demonstrated that TSEKHANOVICH submitted numerous health care reimbursement claims on behalf of these individuals for purported treatments, often for multiple providers on a single day and repeated treatments on sequential days. Among the fraudulent health care claims submitted were some for MRIs and Cat Scans, which, the evidence proved, were not of diagnostic quality and/or did not show trauma consistent with automobile accidents. Additionally, the trial evidence demonstrated that these complicit medical providers paid huge percentages of the money paid by insurers back to TSEKHANOVICH and that over the course of the conspiracy, TSEKHANOVICH collected over one million dollars in insurance reimbursements.

The evidence further established that TSEKHANOVICH was previously convicted in 2003 of participating in another scheme to defraud insurance companies and other entities by, among other things, falsifying medical treatment records for participants in a May 10, 2001 staged automobile accident. For that crime, TSEKHANOVICH received a sentence of three years' probation including six months of home detention. Trial evidence established that TSEKHANOVICH participated in the insurance fraud scheme for which he was currently being tried while on probation for his 2003 conviction. TSEKHANOVICH is expected to be

sentenced by United States District Judge JOHN F. KEENAN on August 29, 2005 for violating his sentence of probation.

TSEKHANOVICH, 27, resided in Brooklyn, New York.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and thanked the National Insurance Crime Bureau, Allstate Insurance Company, Farmers Insurance Group, GEICO, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, and State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company for their assistance in the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys ALEXANDER H. SOUTHWELL and ANJAN SAHNI are in charge of the prosecution.

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